



Winton Motor Carriage Company

Topic Guide for Chronicling America (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>)

Introduction

The Winton Motor Carriage Company was established in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1897, making it one of the first automobile companies in the United States. It was owned by Alexander Winton, a Scottish immigrant who had previously manufactured bicycles. The first Wintons were produced by hand and featured painted sides, padded seats, leather roofs and gas lamps. The B.F. Goodrich Company, based in nearby Akron, Ohio, produced the tires. Despite competition from Ford Motor Company, Winton's business was relatively successful during the first decades of the 20th century. It was in a Winton that the first cross-country automobile drive, lasting 64 days, was completed in 1903. In 1924, the company ceased production, unable to compete with less expensive, mass produced cars like those produced by Ford. Alexander Winton continued to work in the marine and stationary gasoline and diesel engine business through the Winton Engine Company which later became a subsidiary of General Motors in 1930.

Important Dates

- 1896: Alexander Winton produces an experimental single-cylinder automobile.
- March 15, 1897: The Winton Motor Carriage Company is incorporated.
- May 1897: A Winton prototype automobile reaches 33 mph on a Cleveland horse track.
- March 24, 1898: Pennsylvanian Robert Allison purchases the first Winton automobile after seeing an advertisement in Scientific American. 21 additional vehicles are sold that year.
- 1899: Winton Motor Carriage Co. is the largest U.S. manufacturer of gas-powered automobiles.
- 1901: News that members of the Vanderbilt family purchased Wintons leads to increased sales. Later that year, a Winton automobile loses a race to one of Henry Ford's cars.
- 1902: The Winton Bullet is produced and sets an unofficial land speed record of 70 mph. This car was later defeated by another Ford vehicle in a race.
- 1903: Dr. Horatio N. Jackson makes the first successful cross-country automobile drive in a Winton.
- 1910s: Winton produces expensive, custom-made cars marketed to wealthy customers.
- February 11, 1924: Winton Motor Carriage Co. ceases automobile production.

Suggested Search Strategies

- Try the following terms in combination (as an "all" word search), proximity or as phrases: Alexander Winton, Winton, car, automobile, race, Winton Motor Carriage Company.
- Search newspapers in all states, not just Ohio.

Sample Articles from Chronicling America

- ["Horseless Arrives in New York"](#) *Wichita Daily Eagle* (Wichita, KS), May 27, 1899, Image 2, col. 4.
- ["International Automobile Race"](#) *Marietta Daily Leader* (Marietta, OH), June 15, 1900, Image 1, col. 4.
- ["Alexander Winton..."](#) *Akron Daily Democrat* (Akron, OH), October 25, 1901, Image 6, col. 1.
- ["Automobile Races Were Successful"](#) *Stark County Democrat* (Canton, OH), September 29, 1905, Image 2, col. 1-2.
- ["Winton Model-K \(ad\)"](#) *Sun* (New York, NY), February 25, 1906, Image 9, col. 2.
- ["Ten Thousand Dollar Auto"](#) *Evening Statesman* (Walla Walla, WA), March 28, 1910, Image 1, col. 5.